

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 FBO-02 SCCT-01 AID-05

CCO-00 OC-05 OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-05

/101 W

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R 111048Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3785

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0892

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: LUANDA FIGHTING ACCELERATES, HEAVY WEAPONS INCREASINGLY
EMPLOYED

1. VIOLENCE PICKED UP SUBSTANTIALLY IN LUANDA THE NIGHT OF
JULY 8-9 AND CONTINUED SPORADICALLY UNTIL THE NIGHT OF JULY 10,
WHEN HEAVY SHOOTING BROKE OUT AND MORTARS AND ROCKETS WERE
BROUGHT INTO PLAY.

2. THE IMMEDIATE CAUSES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN TWO INCIDENTS:
THREE FNLA SOLDIERS WERE FOUND STABBED TO DEATH IN A GHETTO
THE NIGHT OF JULY 9; ON JULY 10 MACHINEGUNNERS IN A PASSING
CAR KILLED FOUR FNLA SOLDIERS AS THEY WERE RAISING THE
FLAG AT HEADQUARTERS.

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3. ON JULY 10 A ROCKET APPARENTLY AIMED AT THE MPLA HEADQUARTERS

MISSED ITS MARK AND LANDED IN FRONT OF A LARGE SUPERMARKET. A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE INJURED BY SHRAPNEL.

4. JULY 10'S FIGHTING DIMINISHED IN THE AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING ONLY TO INCREASE SHARPLY ABOUT MIDNIGHT. THE LEVEL HELD AT A POINT COMPARABLE WITH THE LATE APRIL ROUND THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE NIGHT AND INTO THE MORNING. AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE WAS LESS THAN IN LATE APRIL BUT USE OF MORTARS, ROCKETS AND 50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS WAS A MULTIPLE OF THE PREVIOUS MAXIMUMS.

5. BASED ON PERSONAL OBSERVATION BY A CONGEN OFFICER, FIGHTING FROM PRE-DAWN JULY 11 TO 9:00 A.M. INVOLVED THE USUAL AREAS SURROUNDING MPLA AND FNLA HEADQUARTERS - RESPECTIVELY VILLA ALICE AND THE AVENUE COMBATENTES - AVENUE BRAZIL CORRIDOR AND OTHER AREAS HERETOFORE LITTLE AFFECTED. INTEGRATED FORCES WHILE IN EVIDENCE WERE AVOIDING THE HOT SPOTS AND PORTUGUESE TROOPS HAD NOT CORDONED OFF ANY AREAS. A PORTUGUESE PARATROOP UNIT WAS SEEN LEAVING THE CITY, PERHAPS INDICATING SERIOUS FIGHTING OUTSIDE LUANDA.

6. THERE HAS BEEN NO CONFIRMATION YET OF ANY UNITA INVOLVEMENT. ALTHOUGH ITS HEADQUARTERS IS IN ONE OF THE MOST AFFECTED AREAS, UNITA TROOPS WERE NOT DEPLOYED AS THEY WERE THE LAST TIME THEY WERE ATTACKED.

7. WORKERS AT LUANDA'S ONE HOSPITAL STILL FUNCTIONING HAVE STRUCK ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW MANY ARE INVOLVED.

8. MILITARY/POLICE RADIO TRAFFIC INDICATES THAT AS OF 10:00 LOCAL (9:00 ZULU) TIME JULY 11 HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES. KILLORAN

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